

BOARD OF APPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING  
EL DORADO

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

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South Arkansas Community College  
Library Auditorium  
300 Summit  
El Dorado, Arkansas

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2001

5 2:35 p.m.

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7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. If we  
8 can, we would like to get started. And as the  
9 interim chairman of the Apportionment Board, I  
10 would like to call this meeting to order. Let  
11 me first say that Governor Huckabee expresses  
12 his regrets for not being able to be here.  
13 His wife had some surgery this week, and he was  
14 going to go get her out of the hospital and  
15 take her home and all that, so we totally  
16 understand that. But he passes on his regrets  
17 for not being able to be here.

18 The apportionment process is a very  
19 interesting one, as you all can imagine. It is  
20 challenging, and we try to get as much input as  
21 possible from all over the state. And as part  
22 of that, we are going around to 11 cities to  
23 have 11 regional meetings about this draft plan  
24 that you are seeing. Probably the most  
25 important word you will hear today is "draft".

1           This is a draft. The two large color maps  
2           there are the staff's recommendation to  
3           the members of the Apportionment Board on what  
4           they think, at least, without -- without some  
5           formal and official input from communities  
6           around the state, at least their preliminary  
7           findings of that when think the districts ought  
8           to look like.

9           We say the word "draft", and we are  
10          serious about that. We are certain, we  
11          are confident, that the maps will change  
12          somewhat on the House and Senate. We  
13          don't know exactly how, we really need to  
14          finish these 11 meetings, and get back to  
15          Little Rock and sit down and put our heads  
16          together about, you know, what the -- you know,  
17          what the state ought to look like.

18          But this is a very important process,  
19          it is one that we take very, very seriously. It  
20          is one that is in the State Constitution. We  
21          are the only state in the union, by the way,  
22          that does it this way. Most states permit the  
23          legislature to draw their own districts. I  
24          know that is going to be an interesting  
25          process. But most states let the legislature

1 draw their own districts, and -- but Arkansas  
2 does not.

3 And it really makes sense, if you  
4 think about it, because you have the chief  
5 executive officer in the Governor, the  
6 chief elections officer in the Secretary  
7 of State, and the chief legal officer in  
8 the Attorney General, sitting down and trying  
9 to be fair and be legal. That is a big part of  
10 what you are going to hear today. And Butch  
11 Reeves is going to explain some of the legal  
12 criteria that we use in drawing these  
13 districts.

14 Like I said, we try to have as much input  
15 as possible. I need to commend the staff, the  
16 Apportionment Board staff, they are doing great  
17 work, to try to get as much input as possible.

18 And there are probably some folks in this  
19 room, I don't know, who have come to Little  
20 Rock and sat down actually in the Apportionment  
21 Board office and actually gotten on the  
22 computer and looked at how the maps should be  
23 drawn. And if there aren't people here who  
24 actually sat in the room, I know there are a  
25 lot of folks here that we have talked to on the

1 phone, because I talked to some personally.

2 But it is a long process, and our goal is  
3 to try to have it finished around Labor Day,  
4 so, you know, we have the month of August,  
5 really, I guess, to finish it up. And this is  
6 very important, this part of the process is  
7 very important, it is critical that we get as  
8 much input as we can. We completely understand  
9 there will be some suggested revisions today  
10 coming from the audience, but that is why we  
11 are here, we are here to listen, we really are.

12 And what we would ask you to do is,  
13 when you come up to the microphone -- by  
14 the way, to save time, if you want to, after we  
15 finish our opening statements here, you may  
16 want to kind of line up by the mike, which will  
17 save time between comments. But we would like  
18 for you to identify yourself for the record.  
19 There is a court reporter here so that we will  
20 have an official record of the meeting. If you  
21 can please state your name and where you live,  
22 and if you want to, what you do for a living  
23 or, you know, however you want to identify  
24 yourself, but we need some way to know who was  
25 here, who spoke, as part of the official record

1 of the Apportionment Board.

2 Now, I have mentioned two or three  
3 times already that we get as much input as  
4 possible. And one day -- I probably shouldn't  
5 tell this story, but I will go ahead and tell  
6 it. One day I had had probably too much input,  
7 if you know what I mean. I had been on the  
8 phone a lot, and I guess I was just kind of  
9 tired of being bombarded with phone calls on  
10 this, and so, I decided to play a joke on a  
11 state senator.

12 And what I did is, I called him up, and I  
13 said, "Senator, I have got some bad news." He  
14 said, "What is that?" I said, "We have  
15 eliminated your Senate district." He said,  
16 "What do you mean, Mark?" And I said, "Well,"  
17 I said, "your neighbor from the east came in,  
18 and he made his pitch and he made his case, and  
19 so, we gave him half your district. And then  
20 your neighbor from the west came in, he made  
21 his pitch, we gave him the other half of your  
22 district."

23 He said, "Mark, let me tell you about  
24 those two guys." He said, "My neighbor to the  
25 east, he is a shyster and his dad before him

1 was a shyster." He said, "My neighbor to the  
2 west, he never comes to any of the meetings. I  
3 have got to do all the voting for him. He is  
4 just in the Senate to line his own pockets."  
5 And I thought, "Man, this conversation is not  
6 going like I thought it would."

7 So, I said, "Senator," I said, "Look, I am  
8 just kidding. I am just pulling your leg." I  
9 said, "We have redrawn your district. I think  
10 it is exactly the way you like it, I think you  
11 will be very, very happy with it." He said,  
12 "Mark," he said, "how could you make me say  
13 that about two of the dearest friends I have  
14 ever had in my life?"

15 That is kind of how the process is,  
16 because it is emotional, and but, you know  
17 what? That is okay. Because, really, what we  
18 are talking about is our democracy and your  
19 representation in state government in Little  
20 Rock, and that is important, and we take that  
21 very seriously.

22 So, I would like to turn it over to Sharon  
23 and then we will turn it over to Butch.

24 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank  
25 you, Mark. I just want to let you know how

1           pleased I am to see so many people here,  
2           because this truly is democracy in action. It  
3           is an opportunity for you to have input into  
4           how you will be represented for the next, not  
5           two years, not four years, but ten years. And  
6           that is important, because I want you to look  
7           at these plans that would be worked for you in  
8           the best interest of your community. And I  
9           think, when you keep this mind that it is a  
10          ten-year plan, you might have a different  
11          outlook on it.

12                 I also think -- you know, I am the  
13          chief elections official for the state, and  
14          elections are the core of our democracy. This  
15          starts that process, because it is your -- it  
16          is the way you are represented. So, I feel very  
17          strongly about that.

18                 I think the other thing probably  
19          that I would like for you to know is that the  
20          three of us who serve on the Board of  
21          Apportionment are elected officials. It  
22          is goal to make as many people happy as we can.

23                 We are not out to make you mad, we want you to  
24          be happy. And this -- as Mark said, this is a  
25          draft plan. The lines are not carved in stone,



1           they are subject to change, and we all would  
2           have been shocked if everybody was perfectly  
3           happy with that.

4           While we have traveled around the  
5           state at other hearings, we have had some very  
6           good suggestions. We don't believe that we  
7           have a monopoly on all of the good ideas. We  
8           have had a wonderful staff, the three of us,  
9           who have worked very hard and who have worked  
10          well together. But it is subject to change.  
11          So, please feel free, if you have ideas, we  
12          will look at them, we will run the numbers, we  
13          will see what can be done and what can't be  
14          done, and we will be happy to discuss the where  
15          and why of what can and can't be done with you.

16          So, please know we truly open to your  
17          suggestions. We want to hear from you, and we  
18          look forward to your comments. Thank you.

19          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank  
20          you, Sharon. One more -- or just two more  
21          observations. One thing is, we love to have --  
22          as Apportionment Board members and staff, we  
23          love to have some sort of local consensus on  
24          these districts. Now, it is not possible every  
25          time, we understand that, it is not. But as

1 best as possible, when, as comments are shared  
2 today, you know, it may not be a bad idea for,  
3 as the meeting gets over, that you grab some  
4 folks with an opposing viewpoint and sit down  
5 and see if you all can work something out among  
6 yourselves and maybe have some revisions that  
7 you can send to Little Rock or send a  
8 delegation to Little Rock, and come sit down at  
9 the computers and, you know, try to help us get  
10 something that everybody is somewhat happy  
11 with.

12 The second observation -- well, the second  
13 observation out of three, I want to add one  
14 more. The second observation is, it is -- it  
15 gets more and more difficult to draw these  
16 lines when you are in -- near a border of the  
17 state, because you just don't have as much  
18 flexibility. You have got Louisiana to the  
19 south, and we just can't go south from Union  
20 County or, you know, these counties down here.

21 You just -- so you have to.

22 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: You can  
23 go down there to Louisiana.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We have  
25 to keep it all here and change it here.

1           So, anytime you get next to a boundary,  
2           sometimes it gets hard to adjust, because there  
3           is not as much population, so to speak, to play  
4           with, I hate to use that word, but not as much  
5           to work with.

6                   And third observation, I think Butch  
7           is going to go in more detail here, is the  
8           state's population grew about 13.7 percent. And  
9           some counties in South Arkansas and  
10          East Arkansas literally lost population, while  
11          others stayed about the same or just had small  
12          growth. But if you stayed about the same in  
13          population, then, in effect, you, relatively  
14          speaking, lost 13.7 percent.

15                   And that is not always easy to adjust to.

16                   And what you are seeing, as a general rule,  
17          and you can tell by these colored maps with the  
18          old maps under it, the presently existing  
19          districts under the two maps, is you will see  
20          that, as a general rule, not true in every  
21          single instance, but as a general rule, when  
22          you are in the south and eastern part of  
23          Arkansas, you see the districts getting larger  
24          geographically. They have to get larger to grab  
25          the population they need.

1           And in Central Arkansas and in kind  
2           of north and west, what you see is the  
3           districts getting smaller as compared to  
4           ten years ago. It is just the way the  
5           population has shifted in the state. Again,  
6           that is not true in every community, every  
7           county, but as a general principle, that is  
8           true.

9           What we would like to do is turn it  
10          over to Butch. Butch is -- Butch Reeves given  
11          is the Governor's legal counsel, and he is not  
12          doing this just because the Governor is not  
13          here today, but he doing this because he always  
14          sort of MCes this part of the program. He is  
15          going to have some comments about some of the  
16          legalities. But then the way process will work  
17          is, we will let Butch talk for a few minutes  
18          and explain some more things in more detail.  
19          And then, what he is going to do is open  
20          the floor for comments.

21          And so, again, we are going to use  
22          that microphone there, and just as a reminder,  
23          if you would please identify yourself for the  
24          court reporter, we would appreciate it. Butch?

25          MR. OLAN REEVES: Thanks, Mark.

1           This process really started last fall. Larry  
2           Crane from Mark Pryor's office, Tim Humphries  
3           from Sharon Priest's office, and Greg  
4           Kirkpatrick from the Governor's office, who is  
5           here, and Ron Maxwell, we went around the state  
6           to 13 cities, we got comments in advance of how  
7           these people wanted their districts to look or  
8           not look. We didn't have any census numbers at  
9           the time.

10                 We got the census numbers in March,  
11           we plugged them in the computer, and we  
12           have been working since about the third week of  
13           April, nearly every day, even some weekends to  
14           the get the maps you have seen. We started in  
15           Texarkana and went to West Memphis, we started  
16           in Lake Village and went to Fayetteville, we  
17           started in the middle and went out, and we  
18           started out and came in on the Senate and the  
19           House side. We have had computer crashes, you  
20           name it, we have had it.

21                 And we come to the process we are here  
22           today. This is just a draft suggestion to the  
23           Board. The Board has not voted on any of this.

24                 They will vote later, sometime in August after  
25           we have had all the hearings, heard all the

1           comments, suggested changes will be made, based  
2           as the Board directs us to do.

3           In doing this process, there are several  
4           things we have to look at, the United States  
5           Constitution and the Arkansas Constitution. The  
6           United States Constitution says as close as you  
7           can one person, one vote. To make that happen,  
8           each House district should have 26,734 people  
9           or as close to that as possible. There is a  
10          deviation you can have above and below that.  
11          On the Senate side, it should have 76,383 or as  
12          close to that as possible. It is not always  
13          possible to make every district those numbers.

14          That has been the difficult part, honestly,  
15          more than anything else, is to get the numbers  
16          in the districts and make them as even across  
17          the state as we could.

18          The Arkansas Constitution simply requires  
19          that the Board's decision not be arbitrary.  
20          That means they have to have guidelines. And  
21          these are the guidelines that we generally  
22          followed as announced by the U.S. Supreme Court  
23          in voting rights cases. Geographically,  
24          compactness, how compact can you make a  
25          district? When you have six counties in this

1 bottom part of the state that lost population  
2 or stayed the same, those districts have to get  
3 bigger land-wise, there is no other way to do  
4 it. It would like to be more compact, but it  
5 can't be. And that was the biggest thing  
6 we fought in the southern part of the state.  
7 This was probably one of the most difficult  
8 ones because of the loss of population. You  
9 have to get bigger.

10 Contiguity, do they touch, very  
11 relevant in Camden and Magnolia on the House  
12 side to make sure that those districts touch.  
13 The other one is preservation of political  
14 subdivisions such as cities and counties,  
15 if possible. It isn't always possible, but we  
16 tried, where we could, to keep cities whole,  
17 even small cities and some big cities, if it  
18 was possible.

19 The other considerations I call political  
20 and legal. And they are preservation of  
21 communities of interest. Do the people in this  
22 town have anything in common with the people in  
23 this town? Do the people in this part of the  
24 county have anything in common with the people  
25 in this part of the county? In a rural county

1           where you have one big city and several little  
2           towns, that is a little more difficult to say,  
3           "We have something in El Dorado in common with  
4           Three Creeks or Norphlet or Calion," or, you  
5           know, wherever. That is a little more  
6           difficult, because you have got to get those  
7           places in a district somewhere.

8           The other thing is preservation of  
9           cores of the existing districts, which takes  
10          into account the current incumbent. Now,  
11          we didn't draw districts for incumbents, some  
12          of them can tell you that. They made a pitch  
13          to us daily. We did take that into account,  
14          because that is the core of an existing  
15          district. But if a county lost population, it  
16          isn't always easy to take that into account.  
17          So, it does count, but it is much more  
18          difficult.

19          And the last thing is, compliance  
20          with Section Two of the Voting Rights Act. That  
21          is something that the Supreme Court says  
22          we have to take into in drawing these  
23          districts, and so, we did. We have been to --  
24          several of us have been to civic clubs around  
25          the state, we have been to meetings, we have



1 everywhere. People have been to us, we have  
2 been to them, since April. And so, we have  
3 come to the place we are today. That is why we  
4 are here, we need to know what you think about  
5 the current districts.

6 If you do represent a group, like the  
7 Chambers of Commerce in Union County, or  
8 you represent the Farm Bureau members in  
9 Calhoun County or whatever, state that, because  
10 that is important for the Board to know. If  
11 you are a citizen and have a comment, say that,  
12 too. It is very important for us to know who  
13 you are and what your comments are.

14 So, if you want to line up right here and  
15 get ready to come on, don't be bashful. I feel  
16 like Barker saying, "Come on down." But if you  
17 want to come on, and go ahead and line up, it  
18 will save us a lot of time. Go ahead.

19 MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: Are we ready?

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We are  
21 ready.

22 MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: My name is  
23 Chris Claybaker, I am mayor of the City  
24 of Camden, and I believe I am speaking  
25 on behalf of quite a few of the elected

1 officials in Ouachita County, as well as quite  
2 a few citizens that have called me and asked me  
3 to drop everything I was doing this afternoon  
4 to come to speak to you all.

5 First of all, let me tell you a little bit  
6 about the House draft. We are not completely  
7 happy about it, but then, when you are losing  
8 the kind of population that we have, who can be  
9 happy about everything? We are satisfied with  
10 the House seats, for the most part, the way  
11 they stand right now. We would be concerned,  
12 we would be extremely concerned with any  
13 further dilution of Ouachita County's  
14 voting ability in the House seats any further  
15 than what you have done already.

16 However, in the Senate, the way you  
17 have got the Senate district set up, we  
18 are extremely concerned, we are very  
19 unhappy with the major change that you  
20 have made for Camden and Ouachita County.  
21 Ouachita County has had about a 30-year  
22 tradition of being connected with Columbia  
23 County. We have shared the Senate seat  
24 for almost 30 years -- about 30 years now.

25 And what that has done is, it has created

1 a very big tradition, a spirit of cooperation.

2 And now, you have taken the major population  
3 shift in Ouachita County and you have brought  
4 it over to Union County. Now, do we have a  
5 problem with Union County? No. As elected  
6 officials, we get along with each other very  
7 well. But the tradition in Union County has  
8 been sole representation. They have had their  
9 own senator for over 30 years.

10 The people in Union County and El  
11 Dorado are used to having a senator that does  
12 exactly what is best for Union County and El  
13 Dorado. For the past 30 years, in Columbia  
14 County and Ouachita County, we have had a  
15 tradition of cooperation, one of regionalism.  
16 In fact, out of the last five senators that  
17 have been elected, three of them have been  
18 elected outside of Ouachita County.

19 To me, what this illustrates is that we  
20 can and easily do depend on representation  
21 outside of our county's borders. One of  
22 the things that has helped make it so that we  
23 have the kind of good representation that we  
24 have has been the numbers that have been in  
25 Ouachita County that has been representative in

1 the district. We have enough of a population  
2 in the district to demand the kind of  
3 representation that we would like.

4 The way you have diluted us in the Senate  
5 seat with this plan does not provide us with  
6 enough population to demand anything. What we  
7 would request is that you find some way to put  
8 us back in our traditional Senate seat. We  
9 don't have the time to forge another 30 years  
10 to create a tradition of voting with Union  
11 County. As much population as we have lost, as  
12 many jobs as we have lost in Ouachita County,  
13 we need the tradition that we have already  
14 forged. Thank you.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Chris,  
16 let me ask one question before you sit down.  
17 What is the -- under the new census, what  
18 is the population of the City of Camden?

19 MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: 13,146.

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. Thank  
21 you.

22 MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: We have got quite a  
23 few from Ouachita County across the front here.  
24 I think, if they are willing to stand if they  
25 agree with what I said, you know, that might be

1           some way to show you that we have a good  
2           consensus.

3           MR. MIKE HESTERLY: We agree with exactly  
4           what he said.

5           UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Well, do you want  
6           to stand?

7           MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: Ouachita County,  
8           if you agree with me, do you mind standing and  
9           showing your support?

10          AUDIENCE: (Indicating.)

11          MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: There is Ouachita  
12          County back there, and this is pretty much our  
13          contingency here.

14          MR. MIKE HESTERLY: Of course, we  
15          would have had more if we would have had it in  
16          Camden, and, you know, not at 2:00 o'clock in  
17          the evening.

18          ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We  
19          understand. Thank you.

20          MR. CHRIS CLAYBAKER: Thank you all.

21          MR. GLENN GLOVER: Good afternoon. My name  
22          is Glenn Glover, and I don't want to reiterate  
23          on what Mr. Claybaker just mentioned. I am  
24          from Union County, I live at 6901 Moro Bay  
25          Highway. And I believe in keeping Union County

1 intact. Now, what I am going to speak on today  
2 is not particularly against the Senate  
3 proposal, but I want to speak on the House  
4 draft.

5 And what I propose we should do, if  
6 you look at the southeastern portion of Union  
7 County, I would like to bring that back into  
8 District Seven, because it is a community of  
9 interest. It shares interest and common  
10 threads of social, economic, and political  
11 interest with the rest of Union County. You  
12 know, we have the county seat, the courthouse  
13 and all.

14 I speak more or less on the minority  
15 issue, because that southeastern portion  
16 of Union County does contain, to me, a  
17 high degree of minority voters in that  
18 area. If you will look at the minority voters  
19 of Strong and Huttig, I feel like they have  
20 been disenfranchised due to the last  
21 reapportionment that we had in 1991. It  
22 appears to me that in 1991, this area cracked  
23 or fractured away from the rest of Union  
24 County, particularly, you know, District Seven.

25 These communities are politically

1           cohesive, they are intact, you know. You know,  
2           we have got a large degree of black population  
3           in that area, it is cohesive, to my  
4           understanding. It also appears to me that  
5           these areas were packed into District 76. I  
6           think that is going to be the new proposal of  
7           being District Eight. And that was done in  
8           1991.

9                     This district is represented by State  
10          Representative Joyce Dees, and I don't have a  
11          problem with the job she has been doing. I  
12          think she last been doing an effective job with  
13          that particular area. But I just feel like we  
14          need to get that part of Union County back into  
15          District Seven.

16                    Also, I feel like we should lose the  
17          northeastern part of Ouachita as District  
18          Eight. If you look at District Seven, we would  
19          like to take that and put it back into District  
20          Eight. I think that would be best for that  
21          particular area, if we were to pick up the  
22          southeastern part of Union County.

23                    And also, I know this is going to probably  
24          strike a sour note with some people from El  
25          Dorado and surrounding areas, but I feel like

1 we could go ahead and maybe lose country box  
2 number three and let them go ahead, as that map  
3 proposes, the new map we have, of going back to  
4 District Four. Now, they area a community of  
5 interest with Union County.

6 I think representative Mark Smith  
7 had a meeting in Parkers Chapel this past  
8 Tuesday, and they were a few folks that  
9 expressed an interest in remaining in District  
10 Seven, but I believe they proposed to maybe  
11 wanting to move to District Six. I feel like  
12 if they were allowed to move into District Six,  
13 that would dilute the black voting strength  
14 in District Six, and that would probably  
15 violate the Voting Right Act.

16 Like I say, we have a pretty good  
17 percentage of black voters in El Dorado. The  
18 numbers are not great, but if you were to allow  
19 country box three to come back into that area,  
20 it is going to dilute the black votes, and we  
21 don't need that for this particular area is.

22 Now, we could let District Six grow,  
23 I believe, to more of a northeasterly  
24 direction, from what you are projecting here.  
25 If you could let it grow out toward the



1 northeast, that would probably allow for the  
2 population rate, you know, the rationale of  
3 saying, "You have got to have so many people in  
4 a certain area." And District Seven would take  
5 in more of the southern and western part of  
6 Union County, which is District Number Four,  
7 to make up the difference.

8 We don't want to lose Junction City  
9 and Three Creeks, I wish we could probably keep  
10 them in District Seven, the way you proposed  
11 the new map, it is not that one, but I believe  
12 is this map here, if you all are not familiar  
13 with it. (Indicating.) This map is what we  
14 more or less agree with. And if you all haven't  
15 looked, you know, at the map.

16 As far as the Senate district, I don't  
17 have a comment on that. But as far as the  
18 House district, this is what we support. Now, I  
19 have a certain amount of people in the  
20 audience, if you all would like to stand, that  
21 more or less feel that this is the map we agree  
22 with. If you all will go ahead and stand,  
23 because this is something that would help the  
24 minority in the area.

25 AUDIENCE: (Indicating.)

1           MR. GLENN GLOVER: And I thank you for  
2 your time.

3           ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

4           MR. GENE SUMMERS: Good afternoon. My name  
5 is Gene Summers, and I am here representing the  
6 City of Junction City, also the Junction City  
7 Development Corporation, which is a 501-S  
8 corporation. When I first got here and saw the  
9 suggested change, I was real happy, because I  
10 thought maybe Junction City was included, but  
11 Congressman Smith quickly pointed out to me  
12 that those two little boxes represent Junction  
13 City and the Junction City country box.

14           I will make this short and sweet. We have  
15 a kinship with the people in El Dorado and  
16 Union County. We work closely with the county  
17 judge's office, we work closely with everyone.

18           Our people shop in El Dorado, and do all their  
19 business in Union County. And I would like to  
20 just read to you a resolution which the  
21 City Council passed July 19th in a  
22 special session. It is a short one.

23           "Be it resolved by the City of  
24 Junction City, Arkansas in a special  
25 session, that the City of Junction City

1 respectfully requests that its boundaries be  
2 included within Union County's congressional  
3 jurisdiction. Historically, we have always  
4 been guided by a congressional representative  
5 living in our county, and would hope that the  
6 committee members of the Board of Apportionment  
7 would act favorably on this request." Signed  
8 and approved on the 19th day of July. I have  
9 faxed this to each of you, I did that last  
10 week. Thank you for the opportunity of letting  
11 me speak here.

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.  
13 Before the next speaker, Larry, do you know the  
14 numbers on those two precincts down there, the  
15 Junction City and the rural Junction City?

16 MR. OLAN REEVES: It looks like 679  
17 for Junction and 100 and --

18 MR. LARRY CRANE: 679 and 100 and some  
19 odd.

20 MR. OLAN REEVES: 100 and something for  
21 the Junction country.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: So, you  
23 could say 850 or so.

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes.

25 MR. LARRY CRANE: 875 or something.

1 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay. Thank  
3 you. I am sorry. Go ahead.

4 MR. MIKE KINARD: All right. Thank  
5 you very much. Madam Secretary Priest  
6 and General Pryor, Governor Reeves, I  
7 appreciate the opportunity of being here.  
8 I don't know how many of you ever deal with the  
9 Governor's office, but if you did, you  
10 understand what I just said. Butch and I have  
11 been friends, and I know what a great job he  
12 has done in lot of areas other than even what  
13 they are doing now, all of them, and with the  
14 staff that they have had working on this  
15 and the communication our county has been able  
16 to have with the staff, we know the kind of  
17 work you have done.

18 I come here today as a person who  
19 has received the vote from every county in both  
20 the House and Senate district that you have put  
21 together. And I have been real fortunate to  
22 have done so. And I feel that I know how  
23 sincere each of the counties and their  
24 representatives here are to trying to see that  
25 the future next ten years, has some kind of

1 stability within their framework of  
2 representation.

3 We have looked at the possibility  
4 of, instead of doing all that we are  
5 doing here, Columbia County at one time  
6 thought, perhaps we could just increase  
7 the number of House members in the House  
8 of Representatives by about 200, and that  
9 we could still get back to that one county  
10 representative for a small county like Columbia  
11 County. But I think that was going to be  
12 vetoed by the Governor, if nobody else.

13 There are 17 of us here today from  
14 Columbia County, all isolationists, and  
15 two members of the press who don't have  
16 an opinion. So, with that particular mind set,  
17 we have been trying to look to see how can we  
18 vote being isolationists, and also a part of  
19 the Southwest Arkansas Community. And we have  
20 said that we think we can best be that if we  
21 can limit the number of House members that are  
22 the representatives from our county from the  
23 number that we previously had, which, as  
24 you know, was rather confusing following  
25 the last opportunity that we had to do a --

1 have an opportunity to redistrict.

2 I fell asleep at the wheel and some of the  
3 rest did, too, and we allowed ourselves to get  
4 in a situation where Columbia County didn't  
5 have one representative that looked to us for  
6 its vote. And that is not fair, either. So,  
7 we asked for help, and I think I am here with a  
8 consensus from Columbia County, maybe that is  
9 not true, and we will find out, but to say that  
10 we are happy with the districts that you have  
11 presented to us, except for some minor things  
12 that we believe can be worked out to assist the  
13 Election Commission, the county clerks in  
14 conducting elections. And those are some  
15 precincts divisions, which I think probably can  
16 be worked out.

17 You know, we are prepared that if  
18 you can't come to us and do a precinct  
19 division, maybe our Election Commission in  
20 Columbia County can come to you and work  
21 out something that could keep the county clerks  
22 from having the problems that I can foresee.  
23 But the Senate district that you have outlined  
24 carries us from Columbia County to Clark  
25 County, where we are now, with our friends in

1 Ouachita County, who have been part of our  
2 Senate district for a long, long time, and then  
3 Dallas County, who has also been a part of the  
4 13th Judicial District, which was a part of the  
5 geographical area that was representative  
6 of Columbia County.

7 And our feeling is this, is that we  
8 certainly think you have done a good job in our  
9 behalf for us. We hope that the counties  
10 adjacent to us can feel the same way. Parity  
11 is important. And I think it is very important  
12 for this commission to understand that we have  
13 had a state senator elected from every county  
14 in this district that you have here, and a  
15 prosecuting attorney, one elected three terms  
16 in a row, from Dallas County, who represented  
17 Ouachita and Columbia County. So, we have had  
18 a cohesive area of the state, and I think that  
19 we are in total agreement that that is an  
20 acceptable senatorial district.

21 As to the House district, the number  
22 of representatives has been reduced to two. And  
23 we are always sorry to lose certain individuals  
24 when we see a redistricting, but our local  
25 newspaper made a point that I think should be

1 referred to all over the state. This is not an  
2 issue of people, this is not an issue of  
3 representatives. This is an issue of location.

4 And if the voters are located in such  
5 a way that they have an opportunity to select,  
6 then the people issue will solve itself,  
7 because you will have candidates who can run  
8 and candidates who can achieve the vote count  
9 that they would like to achieve, if they do the  
10 work that is needed. So, with the exception,  
11 again, of the tweaking around to help us with  
12 some of our precinct lines and boundaries, and  
13 we feel like that can be worked with the staff,  
14 and we have been invited to do that, that we  
15 will be okay.

16 Again, I want to thank you. I would like  
17 for you the people from Columbia County to  
18 stand, and I have got one standing right here  
19 behind me who is going to speak next. So,  
20 counting Doctor Herrington, who else here is  
21 from Columbia County?

22 AUDIENCE: (Indicating.)

23 MR. MIKE KINARD: And if there is any  
24 strong dissent, I am sure you will hear  
25 from them, because they are not reticent in a



1 situation like this. I can tell you this.  
2 When this whole project started, we were  
3 reminded of the old Jerry Clowers story where  
4 he said, "Just shoot up here amongst us, we  
5 need some relief." We have been there ten  
6 years, and we think it is somebody else's time.

7 Now, with what you have drawn, I am  
8 reminded of the honeymoon salad, "Lettuce  
9 alone." Thank you very much.

10 MR. JACK HERRINGTON: I don't know whether  
11 I ought to follow that or now. But Mr. Butch,  
12 Secretary Priest, General Pryor, it is a  
13 privilege for me to be here today. I am Jack  
14 Herrington, president of the Columbia County  
15 Farm Bureau, I live in Magnolia, Arkansas.  
16 Columbia County currently has some 2,800 farm  
17 family members. That translates into about the  
18 7,200 persons, or about 35 percent of our  
19 county's 26,000 plus population, according to  
20 the last census, for example.

21 As it has already been mentioned,  
22 and as you know, for the past ten years,  
23 Columbia County has been without majority  
24 representation in either the House or the  
25 Senate in the State of Arkansas. As all of you

1 know, we have been divided into  
2 three senatorial and four representative  
3 districts, none of which Columbia County have  
4 majority vote in that particular district.

5 I might point out also that in the current  
6 senatorial district, as well as the proposed  
7 district, that we are the only district in the  
8 state, as far as I know, that has two four-year  
9 institutions in the same district served by the  
10 one senator. But I might also add, Secretary  
11 Priest and General Pryor, that we have been  
12 fortunate in the last two senators we have had  
13 that were elected outside of Columbia County,  
14 they have been very favorable to us, and  
15 everything.

16 The media published some goals that  
17 they said should be followed when we were  
18 redrawing legislative districts, and this was  
19 in the Arkansas Gazette-Democrat on 7-17-01.  
20 Number one, "Make population of district as  
21 equal possible." We hope this has been done.  
22 We have not seen any figures our way, but I  
23 think the draft figures that we got today will  
24 pretty well take care of that, for example.

25 Secondly, "Maintain communities of

1 interest." Look at the map. Sometimes  
2 this has not, especially when you split  
3 our precincts, our wards, and things of  
4 this nature here. And I will mention that in  
5 just a moment. "Protect incumbents." And I  
6 wonder why, because term limits will take care  
7 of this, most of them in two to four years.  
8 But two of our people in this area, one of the  
9 representatives, Mark Smith and the other one,  
10 John Lowrey, they were not protected, you know,  
11 for example. So, that may be a moot point.

12 But I might also add take those two  
13 gentlemen have been very helpful to Columbia  
14 County. Mark has part of Columbia County --  
15 had part of Columbia County last year.  
16 John Lowrey did not. But every time, Mark,  
17 when I called on John Lowrey, he responded, for  
18 example, and we appreciate that.

19 Number four, "Keep each district  
20 shape reasonable." I have been told by  
21 our clerk's office that the district lines in  
22 Columbia County do not follow ward or precinct  
23 lines. And Senator Kinard mentioned that, if  
24 we work on that, and if you would give us  
25 consideration with that, I think we can live

1 with that, also.

2 Columbia County is fairly well off  
3 with the proposed senatorial redistricting  
4 lines. Sir, if you could put the senatorial  
5 district up there, for example? You had it  
6 before. But we start out in Columbia County  
7 and go over the fence in Nevada County, part of  
8 it, and Ouachita County and Clark County and  
9 Dallas County. We associate very closely with  
10 the people in Farm Bureau in this particular  
11 area, because we are in the same district, for  
12 example, and we have some common interest  
13 there, when it comes to some legislation, for  
14 example, that results in a need for us to  
15 address the agricultural interest there. So,  
16 we are okay with that one, we can live with  
17 that. And we are also pleased with our current  
18 senator there as well as.

19 And last, but not least, Columbia  
20 County has the population to justify a  
21 representative district of its own. And  
22 I realize that may not be possible, due  
23 to guidelines as Butch had mentioned a  
24 while ago, but he said something about 26,000  
25 plus people needs to be in the representative

1 district. But if you look at that, now, you  
2 have kind of got us split up in north in the  
3 blue and the middle of the blue, with a little  
4 corridor down through there.

5 Again, I think we are asking the  
6 Apportionment Board if they will kindly allow  
7 us to clear up some of those outlying areas to  
8 form a precinct and ward line, then, hey, we  
9 could live with that, also. And we just simply  
10 ask that, hey, give us a majority  
11 representation, at least one House of  
12 Representatives for the next years, and we  
13 appreciate that.

14 Again, thank you for your time, and  
15 appreciate you coming down. Thank you.

16 MR. ROBERT WHITE: Thank you,  
17 Secretary Priest, Mr. Reeves, Attorney General  
18 Pryor, for coming here today. Sorry you are not  
19 in Camden, but you are close enough. So, we  
20 are here. I am not so sure how many people I  
21 can ask to stand, so I am Robert White, and I  
22 represent myself as a state representative. I  
23 do have a couple of minor concerns, and I guess  
24 at the end, I will ask all of the peoples that  
25 I represent to stand, too, so maybe that will

1 have some input on what you all think about  
2 what I says here.

3 If they know what district they are in and  
4 live in and who they should stand up for,  
5 because we know that has been a concern in the  
6 past, I think you all have addressed that,  
7 properly, though, especially in Columbia  
8 County. And I think that was based upon the  
9 fact that in the past, for ten years, they was  
10 divided up quite a bit. But I think now we are  
11 basically down to two representatives, and they  
12 are basically evenly divided, and I am happy  
13 with that, and as long as the individuals from  
14 Columbia County is happy with that, that works  
15 well.

16 Also, I think as far as District 37, which  
17 is Five proposal now, in Ouachita County, we  
18 are all right with that, too. That is not a  
19 major concern. But in Nevada County, there is  
20 a little bit of a concern, if we are able to  
21 presently put two cities that is very much in  
22 connection and kinship, contiguous, or ever  
23 what you want -- the words you want to use, and  
24 that would be Rosston and Willisville moving up  
25 from Waldo. And that would almost be a natural

1 fit, not only locationally, but geographically,  
2 and also as far as the make-up in the  
3 communities. So, if we could do that, that  
4 would be very helpful.

5 Besides that, I am happy with District 37,  
6 proposal draft District Five. Now, there are a  
7 concern with District 38 presently, and  
8 proposed District Seven. I would encourage you,  
9 the same as the Honorable Mayor Chris Claybaker  
10 said, is to keep that intact. And I think it  
11 is extremely important that we keep that  
12 intact, because any other changes are going to  
13 put us in the same situation that Columbia  
14 County was in, not -- I think even possibly  
15 worse. Because at least, as much as -- I  
16 understand the division process, but at least  
17 they had peoples representing them. We can be  
18 up to the point where there won't be but one  
19 representative majority, period, if we tinker  
20 too much with proposed District Seven, which is  
21 presently District 38.

22 So, what I would encourage you to do  
23 is leave that as the state has proposed  
24 it, and not change that at all. I think it is  
25 important that Ouachita County, at least,

1 retains the slight majority numbers that they  
2 presently has proposed, where any other  
3 tinkering with that probably is going to change  
4 the numbers greatly, whereas like I think it is  
5 53 percent now, and 47. Any tinkering that  
6 would make a major change, or to affect any  
7 other county, would probably offset that to the  
8 point where it would not be beneficial to  
9 Ouachita County, whatsoever.

10 And the Senate seat, I wholeheartedly  
11 support the concept of what the mayor said. We  
12 have been in a kinship, a working relationship  
13 with Columbia County for years. Nothing against  
14 Union County, and I can tell you that  
15 definitely, because I am from Union County. I  
16 see a lot of my friends in here, relatives, so,  
17 you can rest assured I am not going to say  
18 anything negative about Union County.

19 But I think it would be very helpful if we  
20 was able to move Camden back into the -- the  
21 city part of it. Now, it takes in like  
22 Chidester and Stephens, but if we could move  
23 the city into it, I think it would be well  
24 worth the effort. Thank you.

25 MR. JIMMY JEFFRESS: I am Jimmy Jeffress



1 from Crossett, I am currently the state senator  
2 in Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, and Bradley  
3 Counties, which is current Senate District One.

4 But I am going to be speaking as an  
5 individual, not as a state senator this  
6 afternoon on most of what I have to say.

7 But first of all, I want to recognize that  
8 the media is here today. And I am so glad to  
9 know that none of this is political. Not a bit  
10 of it is political. But, anyway, I just wanted  
11 to make that statement. I was in Boise, Idaho  
12 about three weeks ago, and I picked up the  
13 Boise paper one morning and they were  
14 undergoing their congressional redistricting in  
15 State of Idaho. They have two congressional  
16 districts in the entire state. The state  
17 population -- I mean, and the square miles is  
18 roughly twice the size of Arkansas, but they  
19 have two congressional districts.

20 And they were -- their City Council, their  
21 economic development groups, all of them had  
22 come together and decided they wanted to they  
23 want to divide Boise right down the center, one  
24 congressional district on this side of town and  
25 one on the other. Because they liked having

1 more people representing them. Now, I don't  
2 where we get the idea in South Arkansas that  
3 the more representatives we have, the worse  
4 off we are. But that seems to be the idea in a  
5 lot of places.

6 You know, my brother, Gene Jeffress,  
7 Representative Jeffress from the current  
8 District 38, has represented Ouachita and  
9 Columbia Counties, this is his second  
10 term. And I think he has probably spent more  
11 hours in Columbia County over the last  
12 three years than he has spent in his own  
13 bedroom. And I know in my Senate district, my  
14 wife accuses me of having an apartment  
15 in Warren and Monticello, because I stay there  
16 more than I stay at home.

17 So, I don't think that anybody who  
18 is worth a grain of salt that ever gets elected  
19 to a public office gives any less attention to  
20 people in outlying areas than they do their own  
21 hometown. I know that I -- I admit that  
22 everybody, I represent them, and I try to do  
23 what is good for them.

24 And I notice that in -- today, there is a  
25 draft coming out of Union County, perhaps, that

1 moves a lot of -- more territory into the  
2 district that Gene represents, and in doing so,  
3 you know, he would be happy, he is going to  
4 represent the people that he serves, no matter  
5 what. I think Magnolia would tell you that,  
6 that SAU got more money in general improvement  
7 funds the last two sessions under him than they  
8 have every -- than they had ever gotten  
9 and received before. So, Gene is going  
10 to represent Union County and Ouachita County,  
11 and whoever with great respect.

12 I just wanted to make one comment  
13 about the proposed Senate district here in this  
14 area. There has been some mention about Camden  
15 being placed -- being taken out of this El  
16 Dorado, Calhoun County district and moved over  
17 into Senator Malone's district. And that would  
18 be all right with me, just as long as the folks  
19 don't jag over into Bradley and Ashley  
20 Counties, you know.

21 But, you know, early on in this process, I  
22 made an overture that I would like to have had  
23 the eastern half of Union County added into the  
24 Senate district that I had. And Union County  
25 didn't want me over there. So, I would still

1 would like to have them, because they are  
2 mighty fine people. And, you know, if you want  
3 to do that, that is fine, but I don't suppose  
4 you would.

5 The only real thing that I really want to  
6 you ask you to consider, my district over in  
7 Southeast Arkansas is number one, and I don't  
8 know how you came up with this numbering  
9 configuration, because it is one two, four,  
10 six, eight, and they all move around  
11 everywhere, there is no contiguousness with the  
12 numbering. I would like for you to consider  
13 when you -- before this is all final to get  
14 over in one corner and go one, two, three, up  
15 and around, instead of jumping around harem  
16 scarem. I don't know how that happened, and I  
17 would like to continue to be number one, if at  
18 all possible.

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Larry?  
20 (Indicating.)

21 MR. LARRY CRANE: It takes all one day to  
22 change those numbers. It is a huge job, and we  
23 are not saying we won't do it, but somebody is  
24 going to have to talk real sweet.

25 MR. JIMMY JEFFRESS: Okay. Could you tell

1 me how you arrived at the jumping around  
2 figures?

3 MR. LARRY CRANE: The machine  
4 automatically -- the computer is set up  
5 so that it automatically starts assigning  
6 numbers, and once you go into one district and  
7 start assigning there, you can't change. And as  
8 you go through, it just happens.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We  
10 decided we would just leave it like that.

11 MR. JIMMY JEFFRESS: Well, that is not  
12 a really important issue here. I mean, I like  
13 my districts currently -- the way you have got  
14 it currently drawn. And if you don't want to  
15 move me over into Union County, leave it like  
16 it is and we will be happy over there. The  
17 Ashley County Election Commission chairman is  
18 here today, and he would agree with me, I  
19 think, that the people in our area are very  
20 pleased with our Senate and House districts  
21 over  
22 there.

23 MR. LARRY CRANE: Well, now, you can move,  
24 if you want to be in One.

25 MR. JIMMY JEFFRESS: I don't want to go to

1 Boone County. Unless it is cooler.

2 MR. LARRY CRANE: Just kidding.

3 MR. JIMMY JEFFRESS: Thank you.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank  
5 you.

6 MS. PATTY CLARY: Hi. My name is  
7 Patty Clary, and I am here to represent  
8 the Election Commission in Columbia county. I  
9 am the secretary/treasurer of the  
10 Election Commission. And my main concern is,  
11 in Columbia County, and I went by the  
12 courthouse the other day and had the girls pull  
13 out for me voter, county by precinct splits,  
14 and we have a 114 different splits. Now, this  
15 intakes School Board and everything.

16 But you have not lived until you have been  
17 in Columbia County putting an election  
18 together. It is very, very tough, and I love  
19 my county, and the Republican chairman, Kitty  
20 Jean and myself, we put aside all of our  
21 differences politically and we work very, very  
22 hard to make sure that we have a safe and a  
23 fair election. And we work many, many hours  
24 and very, very hard.

25 And the reason why I do that is

1 simply because I love it, just like Kitty,  
2 I love what I do, I love putting elections  
3 together. And one other thing that I  
4 loved more than anything was to have some  
5 representation from Columbia County. I have no  
6 complaints from the representatives we have  
7 had, mine is Gene Jeffress and he has been a  
8 good one. But if I remember correctly, ten  
9 years ago, we did have representation right  
10 there from Magnolia, and the way the lines were  
11 drawn, he said he couldn't win.

12 In the past ten years, we have had  
13 a couple of people I know of that have tried to  
14 become representatives, and they couldn't win  
15 because of the way the lines were drawn. So, I  
16 plead for the help that we have representation  
17 from Columbia County. And that the way our  
18 lines are drawn, that they can be so that we  
19 can put an election together and feel very good  
20 about it.

21 This past election, I am here to tell you  
22 that I was scared to death, literally scared to  
23 death that something was going to go wrong,  
24 until I found out about Florida, I feel pretty  
25 good about Camden. But those of you that are

1 from Columbia County, especially those in the  
2 courthouse and those that were on the  
3 ballot and even those who were in the media who  
4 saw us sweat over this election, they know how  
5 hard we try.

6 And I am here to tell you, when  
7 Mike Kinard talked about the Election  
8 Commission trying to get something done, we are  
9 going to do that, because Kitty Jean, who is,  
10 like I said, the Republican chairman, she feels  
11 as deeply as I do about this. And I thank you  
12 so much for your time.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Patty, thank  
14 you.

15 MS. PATTY CLARY: Thank you.

16 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Patty,  
17 and anything we can do to help in that regard,  
18 we would like to. And I think Mike mentioned  
19 it a few minutes ago.

20 MS. PATTY CLARY: Okay.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We  
22 would like to try to help, I have talked to the  
23 mayor.

24 MR. RANDY EVERS: I am Randy Evers, and I  
25 was scared to death. I am Randy Evers, and I



1 am representing the Parkers Chapel Community.  
2 I am president of Evers & Watley Electric  
3 Company. And our community, we are not  
4 incorporated or anything, we are just a  
5 community in Union County. We are an unusual  
6 community in that we aren't incorporated. But  
7 at the same time, I believe that we probably  
8 have more population in our little community  
9 than towns in Union County, like Norphlet and  
10 Mount Holly and Junction City and Strong and  
11 Huttig and all of those. We are called county  
12 box -- country box three, and we have about  
13 2,700 population in our little country box out  
14 there and quite a few voters.

15 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Do you have  
16 your own school district, by the way?

17 MR. RANDY EVERS: We do have our own  
18 school district. In fact, that is really what  
19 our community is built around, Parkers Chapel  
20 School.

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Okay.

22 MR. RANDY EVERS: And we are real  
23 cooperative people. We are real pleased with  
24 what you all have done. The latest -- these  
25 things really aren't identifiable, but the

1 latest one that I have seen, the draft, the  
2 House draft, is this one, Union County  
3 suggested change for the House. And I suppose  
4 that this is the latest one that you all  
5 have --

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: No, that --  
7 well, do you want to handle that, Butch?

8 MR. OLAN REEVES: That is a suggestion  
9 that someone brought to us, and we ran them off  
10 to hand out today. That is not our suggestion.

11 That is something that -- somebody from Union  
12 County brought that to us. Our suggestion is  
13 this one.

14 (Indicating.)

15 MR. RANDY EVERS: Well, shucks.

16 MR. OLAN REEVES: But if you like  
17 that one, say so. If you don't, say why  
18 you don't and say you like this one.

19 MR. RANDY EVERS: Okay. Well, gee. This  
20 is the one we really like. (Indicating.)

21 MR. OLAN REEVES: Okay. Just say so.

22 MR. RANDY EVERS: And I don't know if you  
23 all have had a chance to look over this one,  
24 but --

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: We just got

1           that today, by the way.

2           MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes. We have not looked  
3           at the numbers, we have not analyzed it.

4           MR. RANDY EVERS: Well, it was with  
5           all these others, and I thought, "By, this is  
6           really great, you all have really done  
7           us a great job." But this is the one we really  
8           like. (Indicating.) I was thinking about the  
9           second gentleman that spoke that was from the  
10          Strong and Huttig area. And I thought, "Well,  
11          boy, now, has he not seen this?" This is going  
12          to really work out well for what he would like.

13          In our meeting, we had a community meeting  
14          the other night, and this really coincided with  
15          what we would like. In our meeting, we  
16          didn't -- of course, we didn't have this at the  
17          time, I guess the consensus that we had was  
18          that if -- if all of rural Union County was  
19          going to be put together as a unit --

20          (WHEREUPON, a brief interruption.)

21          MR. RANDY EVERS: If all of rural  
22          Union County was going to be put together as a  
23          unit, then we would like to be in that unit.  
24          But it is not, if it is going to be broken up,  
25          then we would like to remain in the El Dorado

1 area. That is what we would like at Parkers  
2 Chapel.

3 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: In fact,  
4 I talked to the mayor yesterday, and that  
5 is exactly what he would like, too.

6 MR. RANDY EVERS: We appreciate you all  
7 coming down, and appreciate the work that you  
8 are doing, and appreciate this time.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank you.

10 MR. LARRY CRANE: If I could explain that  
11 map?

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Go  
13 ahead.

14 MR. LARRY CRANE: I got a call  
15 yesterday afternoon, and they -- someone  
16 described to me a map that they would like to  
17 be able to see today. I went in -- I started  
18 it yesterday afternoon, I went in this morning  
19 before we left at about 6:30 this morning and  
20 built what I thought I had been told. And I  
21 hit the print button on the computer and it  
22 went to print, and as best I can tell, that is  
23 the last that will ever be seen of that plan on  
24 that computer until I rebuild the whole thing  
25 again.

1           So, we don't have any numbers to go  
2           with it, the handout that you have is all that  
3           we have at this point. And I apologize for not  
4           having any more detail than that on a  
5           suggestion that was brought to us yesterday.

6           ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: And by  
7           the way, for the record, the map that the  
8           witness just talked about, Larry Crane just  
9           talked about is "Union County Suggested  
10          Change". It is titled that at the top.

11          MR. MIKE HESTERLY: I am Mike Hesterly, I  
12          am the Ouachita County judge, and I am here to  
13          represent my citizens' interest. One thing the  
14          mayor didn't say when he was up here is, from  
15          the tri-county area, the county that has  
16          probably taken the largest economic hit in the  
17          last five years is Ouachita County. And to  
18          further dilute their representation is not  
19          going to help us any. We are fighting hard to  
20          try to get industry. To assess the House  
21          seats, the fellow from Union County that was  
22          just up here, I can understand why anybody from  
23          Union County would want it that way, because  
24          that places the predominant representation in  
25          Union County.

1           The way you all have drawn House Seat  
2           Seven now, the population is pretty well even  
3           between the counties, and a person from either  
4           side of the county line would have an  
5           opportunity to get elected, if he did a good  
6           enough job of politicking. And we know this is  
7           all about politics. And that would allow us a  
8           fighting chance. And so, we are in favor of  
9           keeping it like it is, like the mayor said, and  
10          wholeheartedly against any plans to cut us out  
11          a small portion and give all the representation  
12          to Brother Edmonds down here. Even though he  
13          is a good friend of mine.

14          The Senate seat, though, I think should be  
15          addressed one more time. In our quest for help  
16          from the legislature and in our quest for help  
17          in economic development, and I know these are  
18          positions and other people will feel them in  
19          the future, Senator Malone has been a  
20          life-saver for us. He has gone to bat for us,  
21          he has gotten us economic development money.  
22          He seems to be how to access it.

23          The mayor was right, we have had a  
24          long tradition. But just talking about how it  
25          is now, and I believe he has got another term,

1 to cut Camden out and tack it on for Union  
2 County to get major representation and for us  
3 to lose, when we are the ones that need the  
4 most help, is not right. And we would like to  
5 see Camden put back into District 26 and  
6 maybe take part of Dallas County and put  
7 it back in 25. That is very important to our  
8 economic future. Thank you.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: John, before  
10 you get started, if I make take just a moment,  
11 a little personal privilege here, and tell a  
12 story that doesn't have anything to do with  
13 redistricting, okay? It doesn't have anything  
14 to do with redistricting, but you will  
15 appreciate this, is when my dad retired from  
16 the U.S. Senate back in 1996, I told my dad, I  
17 said, "Dad," I said, "you know, need to go back  
18 home to Camden and run for sheriff in Ouachita  
19 County." And I said, "The reason is, is  
20 because your father was sheriff, your  
21 grandfather was sheriff, and your  
22 great-grandfather were all sheriffs of Ouachita  
23 County." He said, "Mark, I would, but I  
24 couldn't beat Ben Garner."

25 MR. JOHN DAWSON: To you, Honorable Sharon

1 Priest and Honorable Mark Pryor, and your  
2 office doesn't require honorable, but you are  
3 an honorable man and I will address you as an  
4 honorable man, and to the congregation here,  
5 and especially to the members from Ouachita  
6 County. I am John Dawson. I had the privilege  
7 of serving in the House for 20 years. I am term  
8 limited, probably the best thing that ever  
9 happened to me was term limits.

10 I also remember a saying that Abe Lincoln  
11 said once upon a time, and it is true. He  
12 said, "It is better to remain silent and  
13 thought a fool than to open your mouth and  
14 remove all doubt." And I am going to try to  
15 take part of that. I would be redundant if I  
16 say much more, because our mayor has hit the  
17 nail on the head. Our county judge has done a  
18 good job and told you how we feel. And we all  
19 feel exactly like that in Ouachita County.

20 I do not know, I have been a little  
21 confused about the House draft. I am  
22 looking at one here, it says 7-2-01,  
23 and it shows Seven, House District Seven,  
24 as having some of the area north of the  
25 Ouachita River. Ouachita River comes right



1 down through Ouachita County, and does a good  
2 job of geographically trying to split it in  
3 two, not population-wise.

4 I understand there has been a draft that I  
5 have seen that wants to take that part of  
6 Ouachita County and put it -- stretch on down  
7 into Union County down into this most  
8 southeastern portion of Union County, which I  
9 think would be Huttig, Strong, and down through  
10 there, Pigeon Hill, in other words. And right  
11 now, I think that you are connected with  
12 Bradley County, that part of Union County.

13 We would very, very strongly urge you not  
14 to do that. We agree with you on just what you  
15 have got. Please, the map I am looking at,  
16 just says "House Draft" and it has got 7-2-01.

17 We -- on House district, we agree with that,  
18 and I will say this, that we would like, what  
19 the judge has said and the mayor has said, that  
20 we would like to be in the Senate district, in  
21 the same district with Columbia County, as an  
22 example. It goes back years and years ago.

23 At one time, Columbia and Ouachita County  
24 was a district itself. And we had -- we would  
25 swap up, we would like Columbia County have one

1 term, and we would have it a term. And it  
2 worked out real well, and we would like to keep  
3 our relationship with Columbia County, not that  
4 we -- we want a good relationship with Union  
5 County, also. But we have just got a stronger  
6 tie through the years with Columbia County.

7 And by the way, and I will say this and I  
8 will sit down, is that the most Honorable Mike  
9 Kinard, in his remarks, said that we didn't  
10 care anything about the votes in Columbia  
11 County, those of us that serve down there.  
12 Well, I want to take exception to that, because  
13 I have took grave interest in trying to get all  
14 the votes that I could in Columbia County, it  
15 meant a lot to me, I mean, it absolutely did.

16 If I had lost Columbia County, I  
17 never would have stayed in the House, I don't  
18 reckon. And I think that I spent -- I have  
19 spent more time -- I spent more time in the  
20 courthouse in Columbia County than I ever did  
21 in any courthouse in Ouachita County, and I  
22 live in Camden. And those people back there  
23 know it, that I came down there.

24 So, thank you so very much. And we  
25 do know you have got an awful, awful job. By

1 the way, in my 20 years up there, I served four  
2 different districts. So, I mean, I got pushed  
3 around everywhere, I got in that NAACP to give  
4 the majority, minority, I got involved in that,  
5 and they took half of Camden away from me. So,  
6 I have experienced all of that, and I hope  
7 this time that we get something that we  
8 can all -- we are not all going to be  
9 happy about it, but maybe we will end up being  
10 satisfied. Thank you so much.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: And you did tell  
12 the truth, you spent more time in Magnolia than  
13 you did here.

14 MR. LANE JEA: Attorney General Pryor,  
15 Secretary Priest, Butch, Mr. Reeves, how  
16 are you doing? My name is Lane Jea, and I am  
17 the mayor of Magnolia. And I just want to  
18 close off what the people of Columbia County  
19 have said. We do have a bipartisan support of  
20 the proposal especially on the House of  
21 Representatives. And we have been split up in  
22 the early '90s to five districts, and then  
23 after '92, we were four districts. Our largest  
24 population in any district was 33 percent.

25 You cannot win an election with 33 percent

1 in your county. And we just want to continue  
2 to support this plan. We would like to do some  
3 fine tweaking with the Election Commission, but  
4 we want to applaud you, and it bipartisan,  
5 we -- the Republican Committee and the  
6 Democratic endorse this. We are happy, and we  
7 appreciate the work you have done. Thank you.

8 MR. BOBBY EDMONDS: I really hadn't  
9 planned to do this, but since my friends north  
10 of here like us a little bit and  
11 they don't like us other places I think I  
12 am forced to have something to say about this.

13 What it seems to me we are trying to do is to  
14 take the county with the larger population,  
15 which is Union County, and try not to fragment  
16 it into so many pieces. And we have asked  
17 that -- the District Seven people that like us  
18 on the House side don't like us on the Senate  
19 side, we would kind of like to move that down  
20 and stop this fragmentation of the county.  
21 And that is all we are asking for.

22 Now, it just so happens that the  
23 numbers are shifted by doing that. But here we  
24 have got the largest county in South Arkansas  
25 with fragmentation into three pieces, and that

1 is what bothers us. We still like our friends  
2 north of the border up there.

3 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:  
4 Bobby Edmonds.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Bobby  
6 Edmonds.

7 MR. BOBBY EDMONDS: Oh, my name is  
8 Bobby Edmonds, I am the Union County Judge.

9 MR. OLAN REEVES: Thank you for coming.  
10 Mark?

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Well, again,  
12 we want to thank you for being here today. And  
13 Sharon, would you like to make a few comments?

14 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Just a  
15 couple of comments and maybe some observations.  
16 First of all, if you have any suggestions when  
17 you leave here or any thoughts or ideas that  
18 you didn't have an opportunity or didn't want  
19 to express today, please get them to us as soon  
20 as possible, because we are wanting to move  
21 fairly quickly. We would like to have the plan  
22 filed by sometime around Labor Day, so, that  
23 gives us about a month. So, we are going to be  
24 working on it, and if we don't hear you from,  
25 once that plan is filed, folks, that is it.

1           So, we need to hear from you quickly.

2                       Second thing, we have heard a lot  
3           about the census and what it does to  
4           representation. But I want you to know that we  
5           had a good census in Arkansas. It was good to  
6           have almost 14 percent growth, because it meant  
7           a whole lot in terms of turn-back funds for our  
8           counties and our cities in the state. So,  
9           there were -- it is good to have growth. In  
10          fact, the anticipated -- the amount of growth  
11          over what was anticipated was 173,400 people.  
12          Just that alone equates to about \$12 million  
13          over the ten-year period based on the numbers  
14          that I had used early last year. So, it was a  
15          good thing for Arkansas.

16                      And I think Butch mentioned to you  
17          the challenges we had in South Arkansas  
18          with the loss in population. Just so you will  
19          know, from the ideal district, the ideal Senate  
20          district ten years ago to the ideal Senate  
21          district this time, we had to add about 9,300  
22          people. So, you can see the challenge  
23          geographically when you are trying to do that.  
24          On the House side, it was about 3,200 people.  
25          So, that did present some challenges.

1           And the other thing that I know sometimes  
2           we didn't hear it here as much -- or we didn't  
3           hear it here at all, actually, you know, "Why  
4           can't you just draw my county the way -- I have  
5           enough population in my county be my own  
6           district." Well, unfortunately, we can't draw  
7           districts in isolation. And what we do here  
8           has a ripple effect statewide, actually.

9           So, please know that we are trying  
10          our best to please everybody in this process.  
11          We are, you know -- we will do everything  
12          we can to please as many as is humanly  
13          possible. And we will take these suggestions,  
14          we will go back, we will see how the numbers  
15          work, and see if we can't help you out in some  
16          of the areas that you have suggested. Thank  
17          you. Yes?

18          MR. JOHN DAWSON: Can I ask one question  
19          right quick?

20          MR. OLAN REEVES: Yes.

21          MR. JOHN DAWSON: This is the question.  
22          Has not the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that you  
23          do not have to have contiguity, it does not  
24          have to be contiguous?

25          MR. LARRY CRANE: No, that is not correct.

1 MR. JOHN DAWSON: That is not correct?

2 MR. LARRY CRANE: You have to have  
3 contiguity. You have to have contiguity.

4 MR. JOHN DAWSON: In this. How about,  
5 what the Congress did, did they not, over  
6 in North Carolina, in that district that they  
7 went over there, said that it did not have  
8 to be contiguous?

9 MR. LARRY CRANE: No. It is all  
10 connected. Even in that North Carolina  
11 district, it was microscopically thin,  
12 but there was a line there that touched every  
13 bit of it.

14 MR. JOHN DAWSON: Okay. Thank you.

15 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST:  
16 And just, finally, again, thank you for taking  
17 time out of your busy schedules to participate  
18 today. It is a very, very important part of  
19 our ability to get things done to suit the  
20 people of the state. And that is ultimately  
21 our goal. Thank you.

22 MR. JOHN DAWSON: Thank you.

23 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: I just have one point,  
24 as just a matter of personal privilege. And to  
25 my good friend John Dawson, I wanted to be sure



1 and know that I voted for him at least once in  
2 every  
3 election.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: Thank  
5 you. We are adjourned. Thank you.

6 (WHEREUPON, at 3:50 p.m., the taking  
7 of the above-entitled proceeding was  
8 concluded.)

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SIGN-IN SHEETS.

MAPS.

## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS       )  
                                  ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF PULASKI       )

I, DEBBYE L. PETRE, Certified Court Reporter and notary public in and for the County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting, do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter reduced to print by means of computer-assisted transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of Arkansas, this the 28th day of July, 2001.

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DEBBYE L. PETRE, CCR  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
LS CERTIFICATE #125

My Commission Expires:  
August 4, 2010.

---O---